# United States Patent [19]

**DiVincenzo**

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[54] **FLOSS BOBBIN HOLDING DEVICE**


[76] Inventor: **Maureen DiVincenzo,** P.O. Box 588, Holden, Mass. 01520



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[51] **Int. Cl.**[4] ..... **B65H 49/14;** B65H 75/06; A47F 5/00

[52] **U.S. Cl.** ..... **242/139;** 211/113; 211/115; 211/163; 223/106; 242/85.1; 242/129.5; 242/130; 242/134

[58] **Field of Search** ..... 242/139, 141, 146, 134, 242/137, 129.5, 85.1; 211/113, 115, 118, 163; 223/106, 107



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[57] **ABSTRACT**

A device for holding a plurality of floss bobbins is described. The invention comprises a floss bobbin holding carrier which has a peripheral surface and a plurality of mounting sites on the surface. A plurality of modular floss bobbins are detachably mounted onto the floss bobbin holding carrier, which are arranged spatially on the peripheral surface of the floss bobbin holding carrier.


**6 Claims, 3 Drawing Sheets**

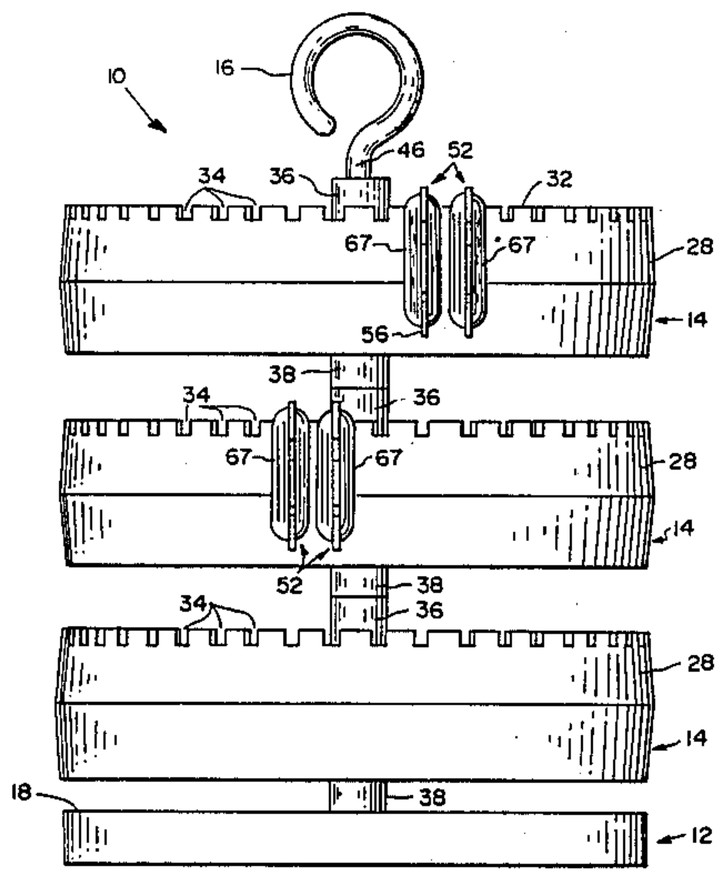

FIG. 1

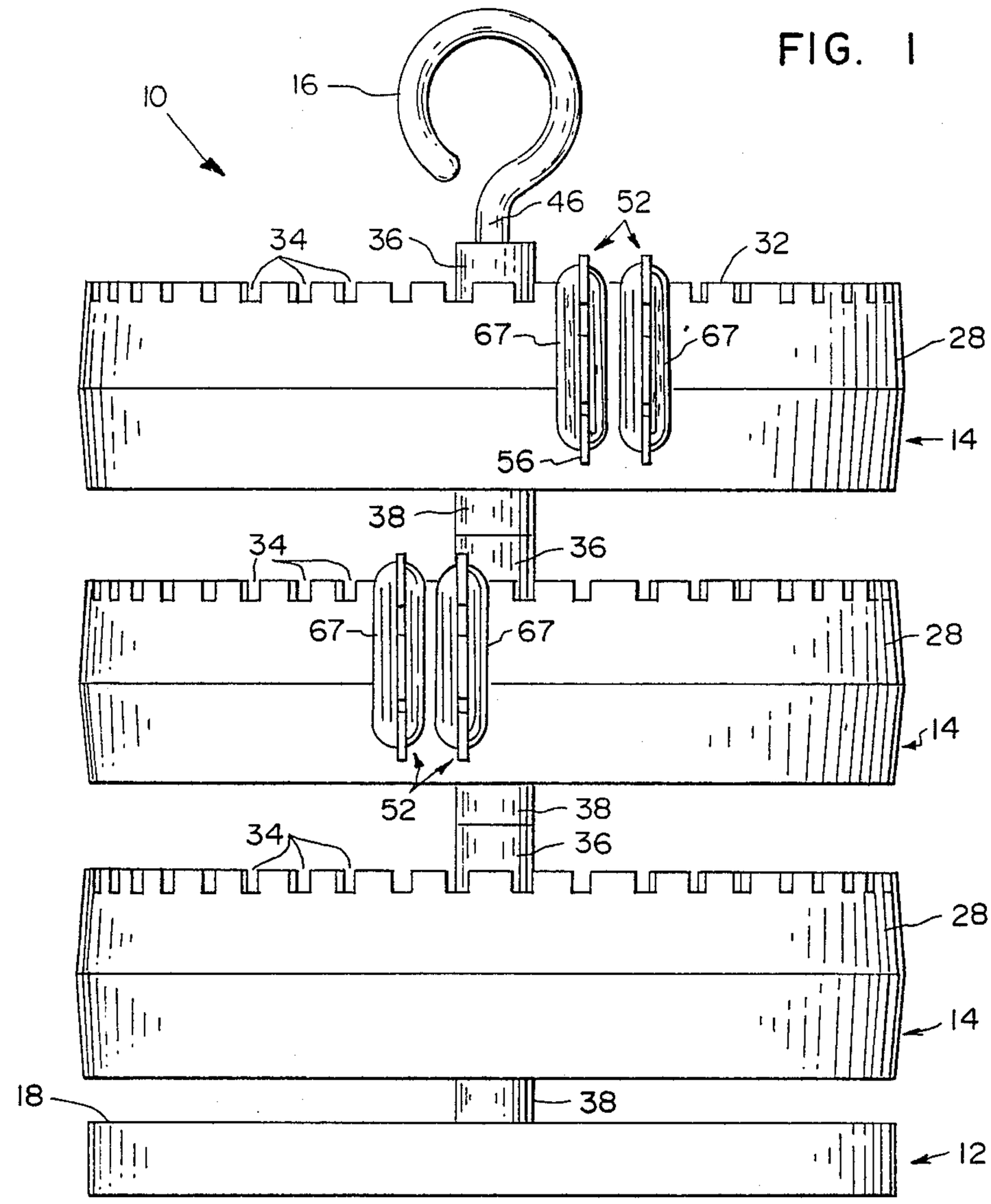
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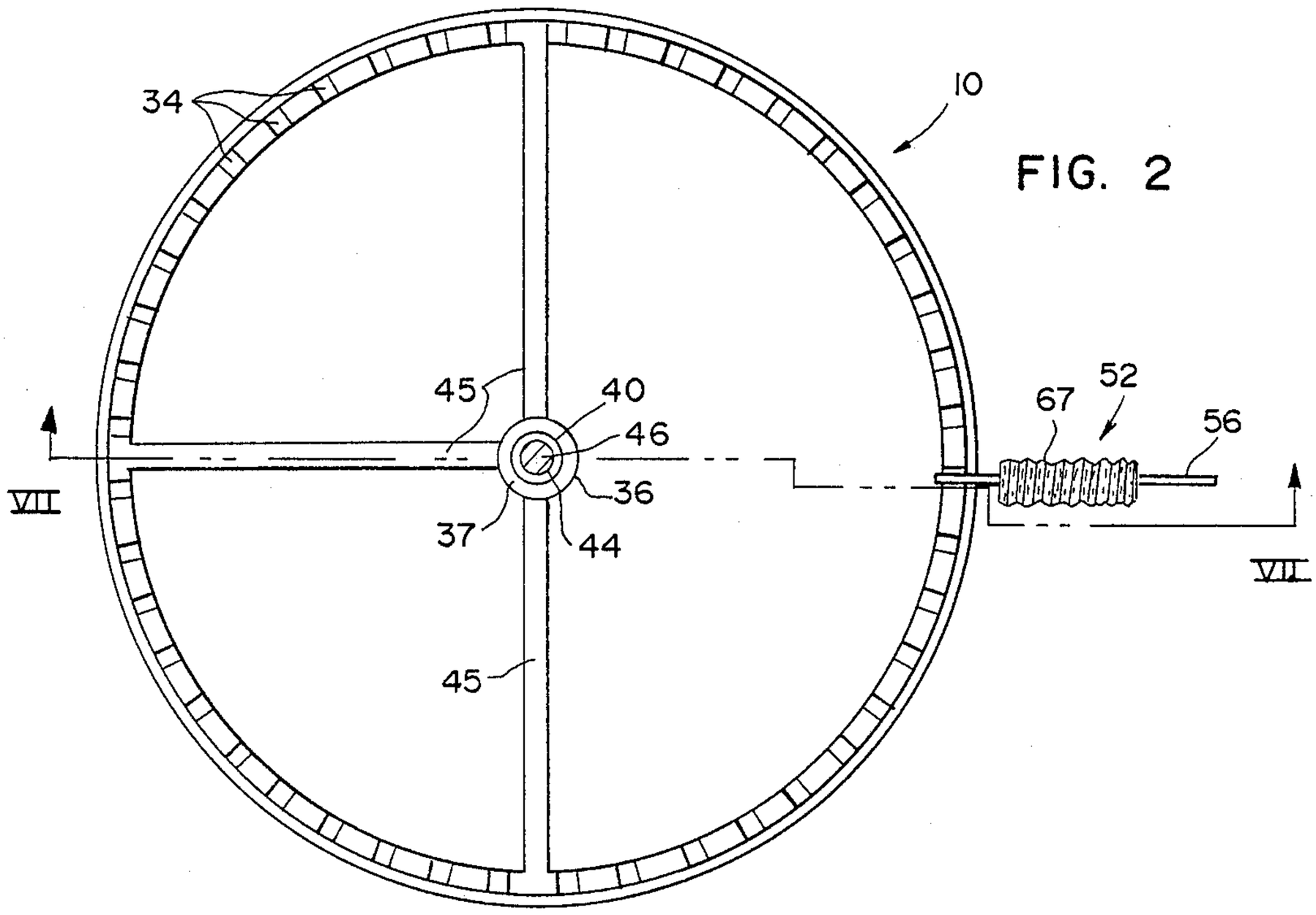
FIG. 2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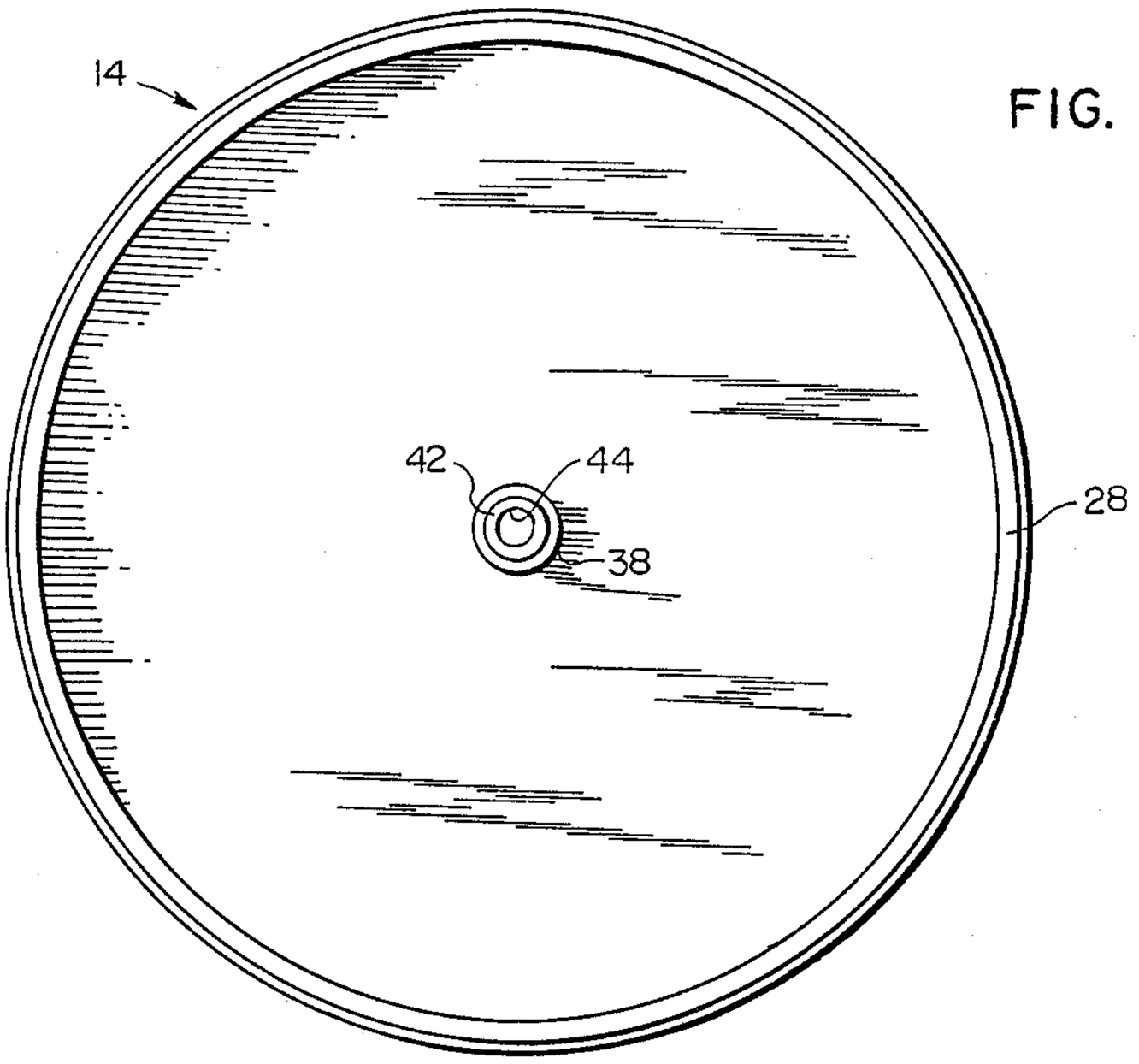



FIG. 3

FIG. 5

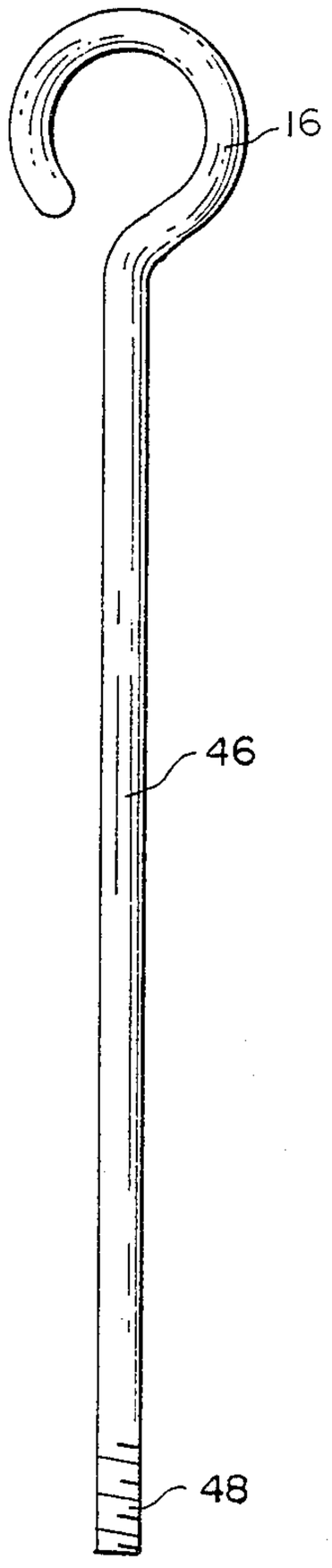
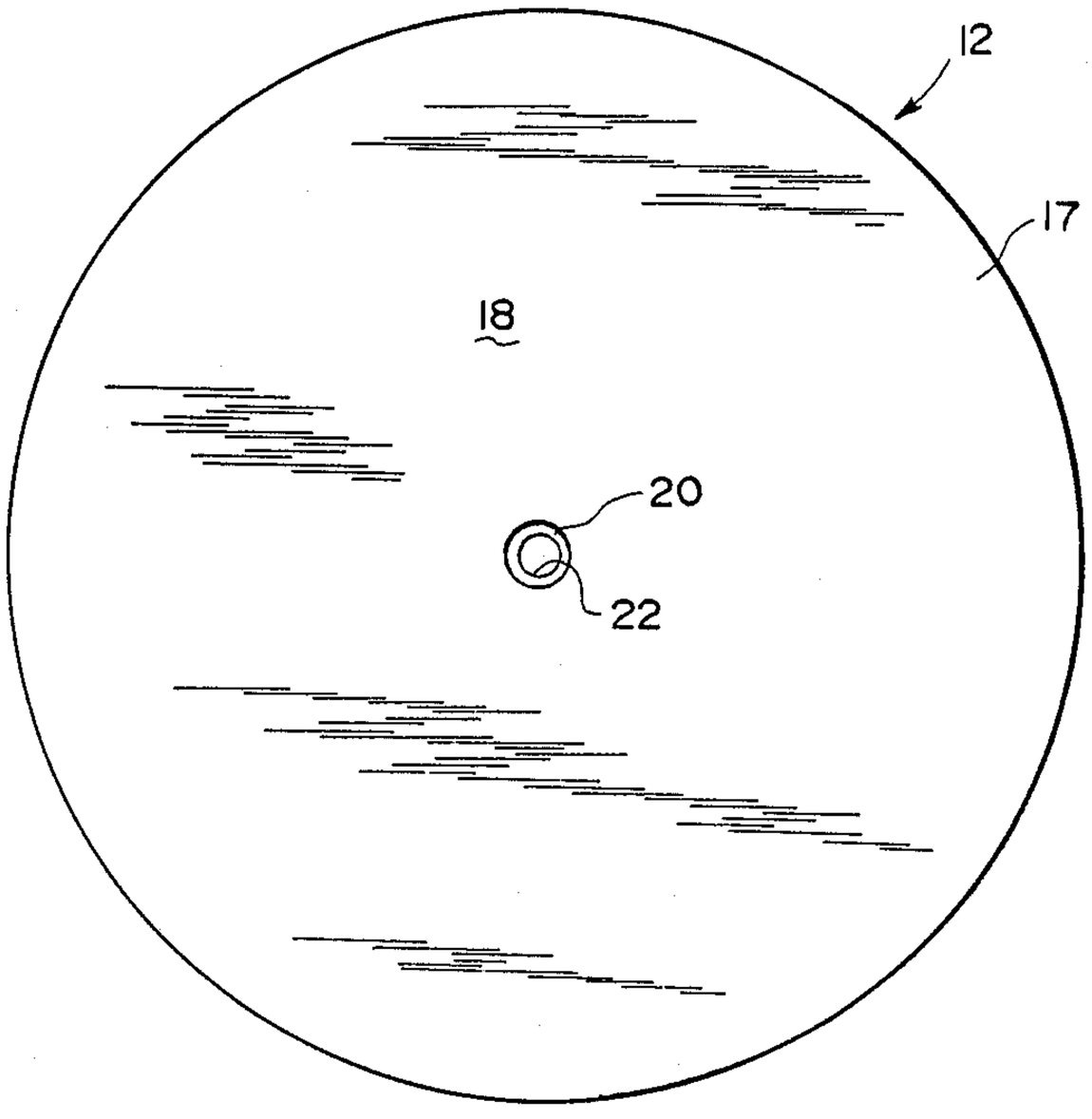



FIG. 4



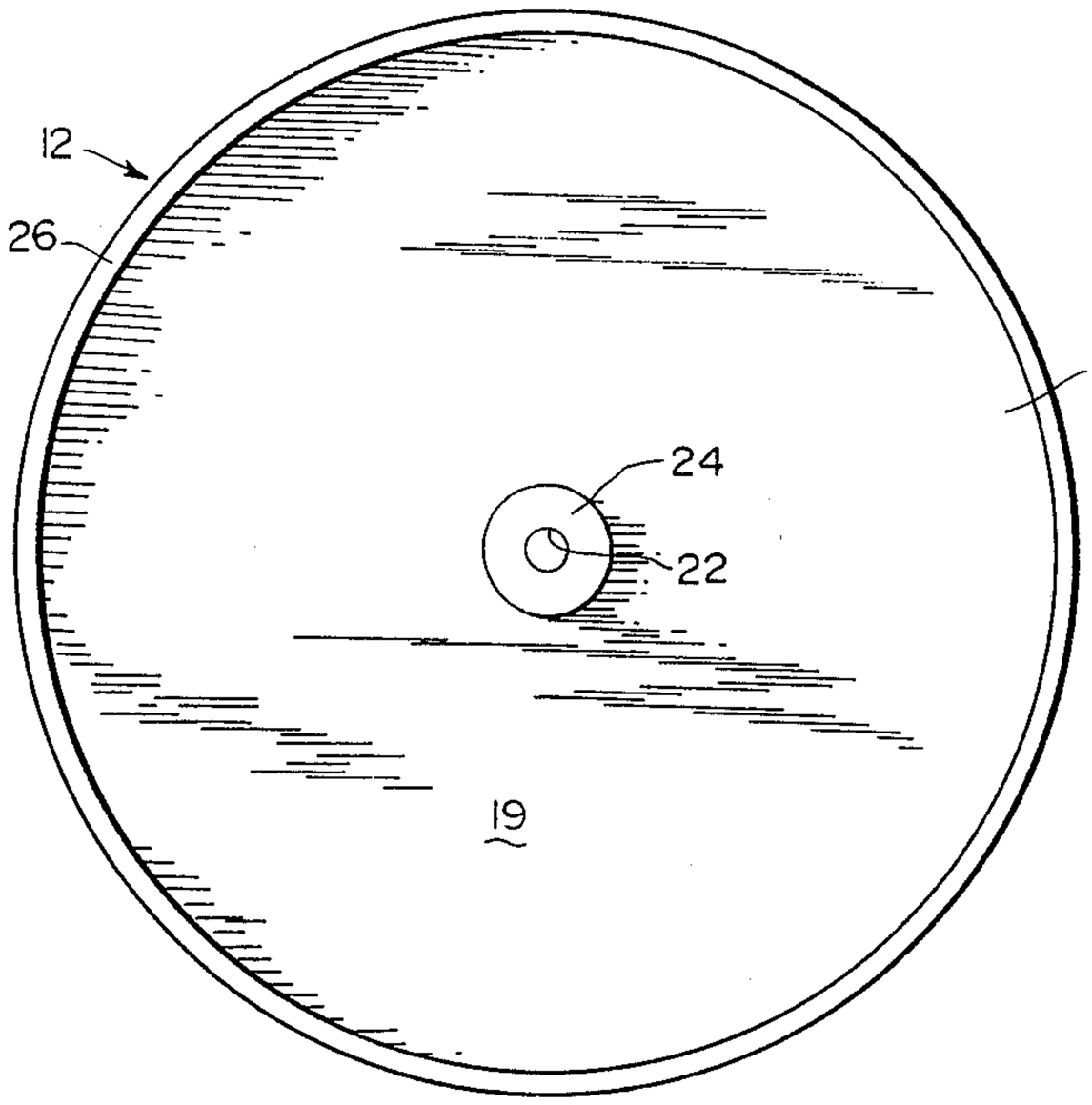



FIG. 6

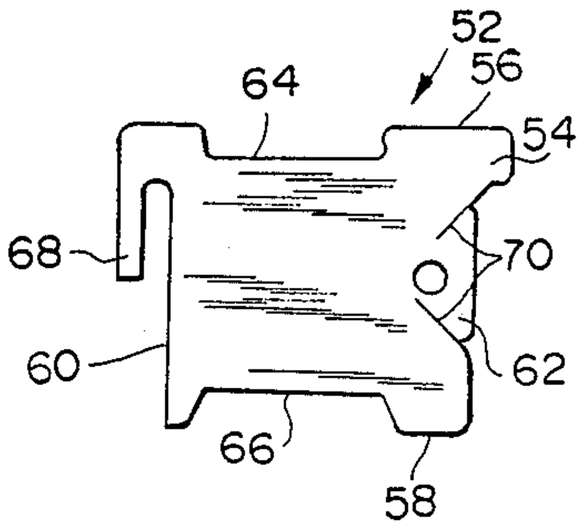



FIG. 8

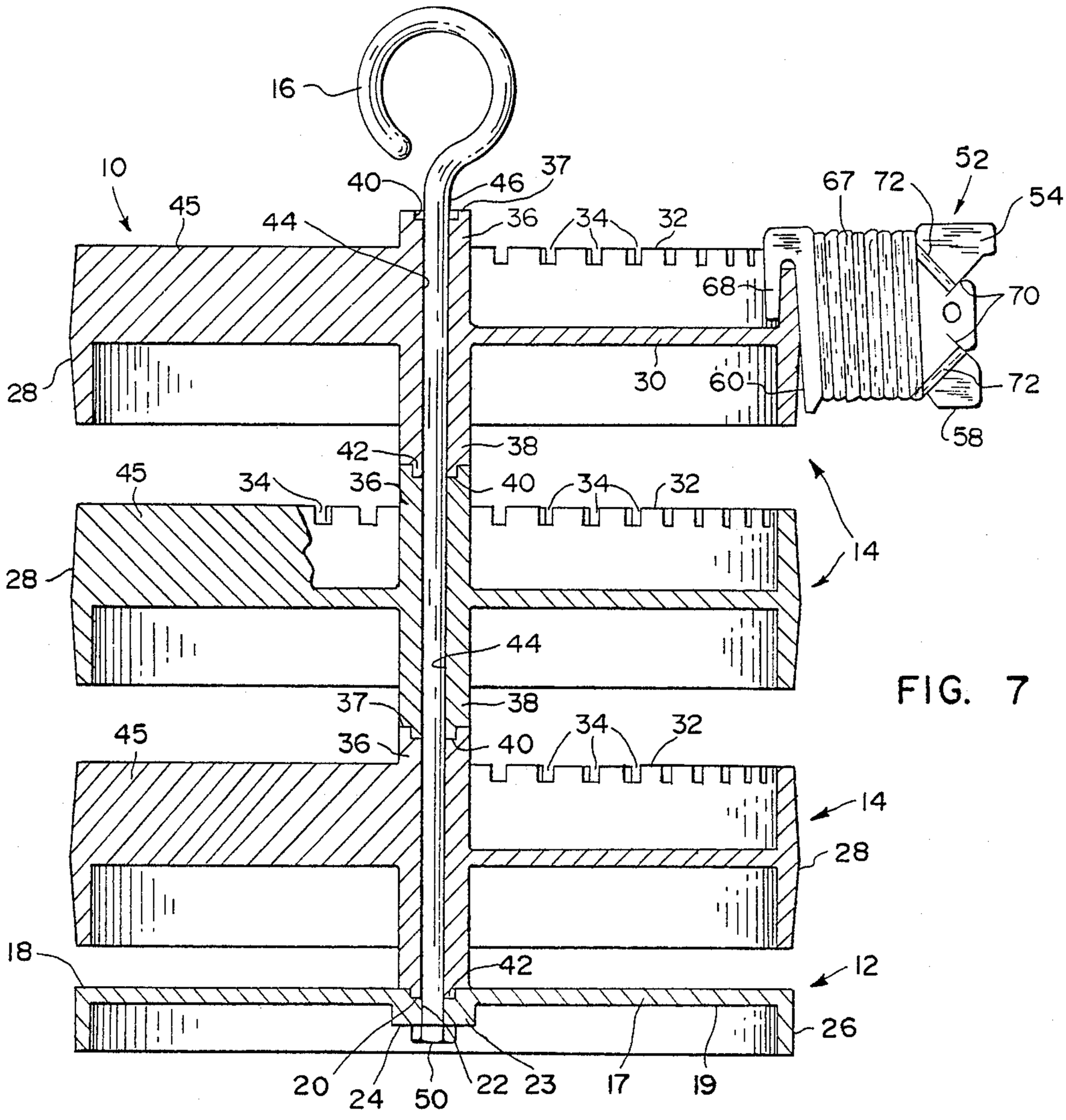



FIG. 7

# FLOSS BOBBIN HOLDING DEVICE

## BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to devices for holding and arranging a plurality of floss bobbins.

The present invention more particularly relates to devices for holding, arranging, and readily interchanging, as well as accessing a plurality of floss bobbins.

In the needlecraft arts, it has long been a major problem to be able to efficiently both organize and handle a plurality of floss bobbins having different color shades.

It has been an additional problem to have rapid access to the individual floss bobbins, when working on a needlepoint, or other needlecraft project, requiring numerous shades of floss to be utilized.

In the past, a plurality of floss bobbins would be difficult to keep in the desired order of varying shades during the project.

## SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

An object of the present invention is to provide a device for holding and arranging floss bobbins.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a device for holding, arranging and readily interchanging, as well as accessing floss bobbins.

A further object of the invention is to provide a novel floss bobbin which is particularly adapted for the holding device of the present invention.

A still further object of the invention is to provide a device for holding floss bobbins which is made up of removable bobbin carrier units for selectively increasing or decreasing the bobbin carrying capacity of the holding device.

In accordance with the above as well as additional objects which will be apparent to those skilled in the arts related thereto, the present invention is set forth in the detailed specification herein, and is to be covered by the claims appended hereto.

The present invention describes a novel device for holding a plurality of floss bobbins, comprising a floss bobbin holding carrier, wherein a plurality of floss bobbins are detachably mounted onto the floss bobbin holding carrier. The floss bobbins are preferably arranged spatially on the peripheral surface of said floss bobbin holding carrier.

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. **1** is a side elevational view of the floss bobbin holding device of the present invention,

FIG. **2** is a plan view of the floss bobbin holding device of FIG. **1**,

FIG. **3** is a bottom plan view of one of the modular carrier units of the bobbin holding device,

FIG. **4** is a top plan view of the supporting base of the bobbin holding device,

FIG. **5** is a side elevational view of a connecting rod for connecting the modular elements of the bobin holding device,

FIG. **6** is a top plan view of the supporting base,

FIG. **7** is a vertical cross sectional view of the bobbin holding device, taken along line VII—VII of FIG. **2**, and

FIG. **8** is a broad side elevational view of novel floss bobbin which is adapted to be held by the holding device of the present invention.



## DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Referring first to FIG. **1**, the floss bobbin holding device of the present invention is generally indicated by the reference numeral **10** and comprises a supporting base **12**, one or more modular carrier units **14**, and a carrying handle **16**. Referring also to FIGS. **4**, **6**, and **7**, the supporting base **12** comprises a horizontal top wall **17** which has a top surface **18** and a bottom surface **19**. The top surface **18** has a circular depression **20** and a circular aperture **22** which is concentric with the depression **20** and extends entirely through the horizontal wall **17**. A central protrusion **23** is also concentric with the depression **20** and has a bottom surface **24** which extends below the surface **19** of the bottom wall **17**. An annular vertical wall **26** extends downwardly from the horizontal wall **17** about the outer periphery of the horizontal wall to a point which is below the surface **24** of the protrusion **23**.

Referring to FIGS. **1**, **2**, **3**, and **7**, each modular carrier unit **14** comprises an annular vertical wall **28** and a horizontal wall **30** which extends within the confines of the vertical wall **28** from a vertical midpoint of the vertical wall. The vertical wall **28** has a top edge **32** which has a plurality of spaced vertical notches **34**. A central upper vertical post **36** extends upwardly from the wall **30** and has a top surface **37** which is above the top edge **32**. A vertical lower central vertical post extends downwardly from the horizontal wall **30** to a point below the bottom edge of the vertical wall **28**. The top surface **37** of the vertical post **36** has a central annular depression **40**. The bottom end of the lower central vertical post **38** has an annular projection **42** which is adapted to fit into the annular depression **40** of a second modular carrier unit **14** or the annular depression **20** of the supporting base **12**. This enables the carrier unit **14** to rotate relative to the base **12** or to another carrier unit **14** about a central vertical axis. The modular carrier unit **14** has a central bore **44** which extends entirely through the carrier unit from the top of the upper post **36** to the bottom of the lower post **38**. The central bore **44** is concentric with the bore **22** of the supporting base when the carrier unit is mounting on the supporting base. The space which is defined by the horizontal wall **30** and the portion of the vertical wall **28** which extends upwardly from the horizontal wall **30** represents a storage area for craft tools associated with floss bobbins. A plurality of vertical walls **45** extend upwardly from the horizontal wall **30**, see FIG. **2** in particular, for dividing the storage space into separate storage compartments.

Referring to FIGS. **1**, **5**, and **7**, there is shown an elongated vertical rod **46** which has a lower threaded end **48** and an upper end which is configured to form the carrying handle **16**. The rod **46** is adapted to be inserted into the central bore **44** of the carrier units **14** and the aperture **22** of the supporting base **12** as shown in FIG. **7**. A nut **50** is threaded onto the threaded end **48** of the rod **46** for anchoring the rod to the supporting base and allowing the supporting base, together with one or more modular carrier units, to be lifted by grasping the carrying handle **16**.

Referring to FIGS. **1**, **2**, **7**, and **8**, the floss bobbin of the present invention which is particularly adapted for being mounted on the floss bobbin holding device **10** is generally indicated by the reference numeral **52** and comprises a planar body **54**. The body **54** has a top edge

56, a bottom edge 58, a first side edge 60, and a second side edge 62. The top edge 56 has a groove 64 and the bottom edge 58 has a groove 66 which is vertically aligned with the groove 64. Floss 67 is wound around the body of the bobbin 54 along the grooves 64 and 66 as shown in FIGS. 2 and 7. A hook-shaped flange 68 extends outwardly and downwardly from the upper portion of the first side edge 60. The flange 68 is adapted to fit over the vertical wall 28 of the carrier unit 14 within one of the slots 34 as shown in FIGS. 2 and 7. The second side edge 62 has a pair of slits 70 for anchoring the ends 72 of the floss as shown in FIG. 7.

The operation and advantages of the present invention will now be readily understood in view of the above description. The floss bobbin holding device 10 is assembled by placing a modular carrier unit 14 so that the projection 42 rests inside the circular depression 20 of the supporting base 12. If desired, one or more additional carrier units 14 are stacked on top of the first carrier unit by inserting the lower projection 42 of an upper carrier unit into the upper depression 40 of a lower carrier unit. The elongated rod 46 is then inserted through the bores 44 of the carrier units and through the aperture 22 of the supporting base. The nut 50 is threaded onto the lower end 48 of the elongated rod 46. This enables the supporting base and the stack of modular carrier unis to be lifted as a unit by grasping and raising the carrying handle 16. Each modular carrier unit 14 can be rotated about the axis of the rod 46 relative to the supporting base or other carrier units 14. Floss bobbins 52 are mounted on each carrier unit 14 by inserting the hooks 68 into the slots 34. Since the slots 34 are spaced from each other, the bobbins 67 will also be spaced from each other. The floss bobbins can be arranged by color and even by different shades of color in any pattern which is convenient to the user. Since the bobbins 52 extend outwardly from the periphery of each carrier unit, they are highly visible and accessible. Also, since each carrier unit 14 can be rotated about the vertical axis of the rod 46, selection of desired bobbins is greatly enhanced. Additional carrier units 14 can be mounted on the first carrier unit as shown in FIG. 1. Each carrier unit can be rotated relative to the other carrier units and to the base 12 about the axis of the rod 46. The floss bobbins 52 are mounted on the carrier unit 14 by hooking the flange 68 over the top edge of the vertical wall 28 within the notches 34. The bobbins are separated from each other due to the spacing of the notches and are readily accessible. The bobbins can be arranged by color and numerous shades of color and are highly visible. The examination and selection of bobbins is greatly enhanced by the ability of the carrier units to be rotated about the vertical axis of the rod 46.

It is obvious that minor changes may be made in the form and construction of the invention without departing from the material spirit thereof. It is not, however, desired to confine the invention to the exact form herein shown and described, but it is desired to include all such as properly come within the scope claimed.

The invention having been thus described, what is claimed as new and desired to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. A device for holding a plurality of generally planar floss bobbins, each of which has a hook-shaped flange at one side edge, said holding device comprising:

(a) a supporting base having a top surface which has a circular depression,

(b) a carrier which is mounted on said base for rotation about a vertical axis, said carrier comprising:

(1) a peripheral wall having a top edge,

(2) an upper central circular post which extends upwardly from the carrier, said post having a top surface which is above said top edge and which has a circular depression, and

(3) a lower central circular post which extends downwardly from said carrier and which is rotatably and removably mounted in the circular depression of said supporting base or in the circular depression of a second identical carrier which is rotatably and removably mounted on said supporting base, and

(c) a plurality of floss bobbin mounting sites spatially arranged along said peripheral wall, each of said sites being adapted for receiving the flange of a floss bobbin for supporting the bobbin.

2. A floss bobbin holding device as recited in claim 1, wherein said peripheral wall is a vertical annular wall with said top edge being annular and each of said mounting sites is a vertical notch in said top edge.

3. A floss bobbin holding device as recited in claim 2, wherein said carrier has an upper horizontal surface which is located below said top edge within said annular wall and defining with said vertical wall a storage compartment for floss craft implements.

4. A floss bobbin holding device as recited in claim 3, wherein there is at least one vertical interior wall for dividing said compartment into at least two storage areas.

5. A floss bobbin holding device as recited in claim 1, wherein said carrier has a central bore which is concentric with the upper and lower post of said carrier and said floss holding device further comprises:

(a) an elongated rod which is adapted to extend through the said central bore, the upper end of said rod being configured for grasping, and

(b) connecting means for removably attaching the lower end of the rod to said supporting base for enabling the holding device to be carried by grasping the upper end of said rod.

6. A floss bobbin holding device as recited in claim 5, wherein the lower end of said rod is threaded and said connecting means comprises:

(a) a central bore in said base which is concentric with the central bore of said carrier for receiving the threaded lower end of said rod, and

(b) a nut which is adapted to be threaded to the threaded lower end of said rod.

* * * * *